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News Release

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Hawai'i State Department of Health Kaua'i District Health Office announces 17 new cases of COVID-19 on Aug. 15

LĪHU'E – The Hawai'i State Department of Health Kaua'i District Health Office reported 17 new cases of COVID-19 on Sunday, Aug. 15.

Today's cases consist of two visitors and 15 residents. Of the 17 new cases, three are children and 14 are adults. Five of the cases are related to travel – four mainland and one interisland. The remaining 12 cases are considered community-acquired. Five of the community-acquired infections are close contacts of previously announced cases or are tied to one of our active clusters. The remaining seven community-acquired cases have no known source of infection.

All active cases are in isolation, and close contacts are being identified, offered testing, and directed to quarantine. Investigations are ongoing.

"Whether you're vaccinated or not, please wear a mask," said Dr. Janet Berreman, Kaua'i District Health Officer. "Vaccines are very effective at their most important job: preventing severe disease and death. And the delta variant is so much more transmissible that even fully vaccinated people can become infected and spread the virus to others. Masks protect us all."

Today's cases bring the number of active cases to 229, with three hospitalized, and 918 cumulative cases. Kaua'i's cumulative case count includes 864 confirmed locally, eight probable, and 46 positive cases diagnosed elsewhere, as they received their pre-travel test results after arriving on island.

Daily case counts continue to rise rapidly, despite the Department of Health's efforts to perform comprehensive case investigation and contact tracing. If you test positive, please don't wait to hear from the Department of Health before taking action: isolate yourself at home, and let those you've been in contact with know that they've been exposed. Your close contacts should quarantine and plan to be tested. Your prompt action makes a difference.

If you have symptoms or are feeling sick, you should isolate yourself immediately, stay away from household members, and not go out – including to work or school – unless you are seeking testing or getting health care. Those who have been vaccinated should still be tested if they believe they may have been exposed or if they feel sick.

Many cases are in residents who have traveled. If you plan a trip, please be vaccinated before you go. And whether or not you are vaccinated, follow Hawai'i's prudent rules and wear a mask in crowded indoor settings. Finally, please get tested 3 to 5 days after you return to Kaua'i.

Vaccination is free and widely available on the island, including on weekends and evenings and pop-up vaccination opportunities at community sites. Many vaccination sites accept walk-ins. Residents aged 18 and older are eligible for any vaccine available at pharmacy, hospital, and clinic locations. The Pfizer vaccine has been authorized for use in those 12 years of age and older, and are currently available at Wilcox Medical Center, Līhu'e Longs, and Līhu'e Safeway. For details on the vaccination sites, visit www.kauai.gov/vaccine.

Free testing is available at the Convention Hall, weekdays, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on a first-come, first-served basis. Additionally, a free mobile testing van is available for walk-ins from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Kekaha Neighborhood Center on Wednesdays, Kīlauea Neighborhood Center on Thursdays, Kalāheo Neighborhood Center on Fridays, Hanalei Neighborhood Center on Saturdays, and Kapa'a Neighborhood Center on Sundays. Testing performed at the Convention Hall and through the mobile testing van is rapid PCR. Same-day results are sent via email.

Testing is also available through your primary care physician, a hospital, or an urgent care clinic.
Please contact those providers directly for more information. For more details, visit

<https://www.kauai.gov/covidtest>.

For more information on the county's COVID-19 response, visit www.kauai.gov/COVID-19.

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